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MADURA AND DEVELOPMENT

- Indonesia -

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Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Mimbar Penerangan (Information Rostrum), Vol XI, No 617, Djakarta, June/July 1960, pages 400-405.]

The development in Madura is not well known to a great majority of the Indonesian people. This lack of information is found among the general public as well as among the presumably informed group.

Madura is located not far from the island of Java, near Surabaja, is separated from it by a small sea. On the west, Madura is connected with Java by DKA steamships. The steamships also connect the town of Kamal with Udjung, running every hour on this twenty minute trip. For first, second and third class, respectively, the fares are 7.50, 5.00 and 2.50 rupiahs. On the east, connection between Kaliangket and Panarukan is also by steamships. A daily round trip voyage of six hours is regularly maintained.

Besides the two approaches just mentioned Madura may be approached from various other places by sailboat, transportation of traditional standing. Madura sailboats were known many years ago, dating to the time before Indonesia was ever occupied by any foreign power. The sailboats of Madura called not only at the ports of Tuban and Gresik, but also at Palembang, Bandjarmasin, Singapore, and many others.

Therefore, Madura seamen have been known to the world for many years. Although Madura was long known to be seafaring, its economic life is generally unknown to those living outside Madura. Many people believe Madura now to be lagging far behind in development. They get their information from hearsay. This tendency can be understood when we pause to think of the general practices of the Dutch Government.

We will not wonder when we examine the textbooks used in schools during the colonial period, particularly the geography and history textbooks. Many unpleasant comments were made about Madura. In the van Nederland Indie Encyclopedia you will read that Madura is an infertile land. From this definition one would think Madura is an arid land.

In order to learn more about the political practices of the Dutch Government in Madura, one would have to scan its history. One of its major objectives was to keep the inhabitants ignorant and in want of food. To keep the inhabitants in short of food would be of great benefit to the Dutch who farmed big estates in East Java. In such a condition, labor could

be had for practically nothing. To accomplish this purpose of keeping the inhabitants of Madura short of food, the Netherlands government stripped the land of its forests and vegetation and turned it into arid land.

Before Madura was occupied by the Dutch, it was a land of forests and vegetation. This information may be found from reading story books like the "Bangsatjara" and "Djokotole." These books will tell that Madura was once rich in agricultural produce and its sailboat industries prospered. This information was confirmed by Governor General Maetsuyker (1653-1678) in his report to "De Heren 17" in Holland [The seventeen directors of the East India Company]. Among other things in his report he mentioned Madura as a fertile land.

The Dutch government in its liberal economic policy changed its efforts from cultural into private investments. The Government guaranteed these investments full protection. With the open door policy of the government, many investments came rushing into Indonesia, resulting in growth of estates and other forms of investments. These investments needed cheap labor. The inhabitants who were unable to pay road taxes became laborers bound with contracts.

The Dutch government was active in promoting big farming estates and in getting cheap labor. The investors and the Dutch Government felt the people of Madura were the right kind to work the estates. The Dutch government spared no effort to turn Madura into an arid land, thereby forcing the people to work on the big estates for practically nothing. In other places it was in violation of laws to strip the land of forests and other vegetation, but such laws did not apply to Madura. This action turned Madura virtually into arid land. The once fertile land of Madura, providing an abundance of food for its people, turned in a land of hunger. The people had to leave their villages in search of work on private plantations. This sad affair continued to exist until 1952. At that time it was estimated that about 70,000 acres was waste, unfarmed. In addition to the policy of turning the land into waste, the schools joined efforts to dope the people into a coma. The opportunity to study was opened only to selected groups. There were not enough schools to accommodate the needs of the people.

In 1941 there were only four grammar schools in the entire district of Madura, and only at that time a high school was opened. It was opened through pressure from the supervisor of the town Pamekasan.

In 1936 the head of the Forestry, domiciled in Modjokerto, Ir. Meyer, had plans to reclaim the land. This plan was objected to by the Governor of East Java, Ch. O. van der Plas. His objection is understandable in the light of the policy of the Colonial Dutch government, some of which were enumerated above.

With independence, we inherited a Madura which was turned into arid land incapable of supplying food for its people, who in their destitution, resorted to eating the leaves known as "Daun pe-ape".

Independent Indonesia must now destroy the roots of the Colonial Dutch government responsible for turning Madura into an arid land. The land has to be reclaimed to make possible the growing of crops to feed the people. Such a plan, under the direction of R. Soenarto, is in process.

The plan began operation in 1950. The fruits of the plan is enjoyed by the people, not only in increased farm lands, but also in the field of education, cattle-breeding, fisheries and many other industries. This plan is possible because of responsible government in the execution of the co-prosperity plan together with the people.

The plan to make the land fit for agriculture begun in 1952 is known as "Penghidjauan Madura" (Greening Madura).

The objectives of greening Madura are as follows: -

To increase variety of plants suitable to the soil and climate for the enjoyment of its people! Fruits that are health-giving and salable.

To reclaim the land to reduce the erosion of the soil and to prevent floods. This plan is basically the same as was initiated once by Ir. Meyer. The work is to be undertaken by the Department of Forestry.

To terrace the hilly ground.

The greening of Madura means to increase food production to make life more enjoyable.

In planning to bring prosperity to Madura, a few factors must be observed. The soil of the farming land is generally poor. Rainfall and other sources of water to irrigate the land is inadequate. Rice and corn farmers, viewed from the standpoint of business, are sure to suffer loss. The plan to bring prosperity to Madura through agriculture must not be restricted to planting rice and grain, particularly if there are other plants that can be planted more profitably. Trial balloons must of course be sent up to see if the new plants are acceptable to the people. Such a plan, of course, is time-consuming.

Considering the type of soil and climate of Madura, plants other than rice must be considered. Increase of rice might not really bring the kind of prosperity desired. Extensive studies should be made to see if there might be plants that can be grown profitably in Madura, yet do not require much care. Growing rice needs so much care and work, yet the profit derived from it so small.

The agriculture of Madura must turn to the plants that will guarantee the most benefit. The profit derived from them must be sufficient to buy rice, clothing and other necessities. To expect the people of Madura to be prosperous from growing rice would be unrealistic. Of course this does not mean Madura does not need rice.

They must grow plants that will bear fruit quickly. This will be the beginning of their prosperity in the plan to make Madura green; greening Madura that was once green. The plants to grow should be preferably the ones they are familiar with.

Among others, bananas should be tried, for within a year their fruit is ready to be enjoyed. Bananas should be grown widely - extending from town to the villages. They are quick to bear fruit, but do not require much care or much land. They can be planted in the yard and along the border of the rice field.

Banana plantings receive wide acceptance. By the end of 1958 3.7 thousand plants had been grown in Madura. It will not be exaggeration to say that every farmer has between 200-400 banana trees. From a certain place in Madura, a tremendous amount of bananas daily is sent to Surabaya.

With the increase of banana trees, the income of the people is increased. In addition to planting bananas, they also grow oranges and coconuts on a large scale. According to reports, from the time the plan to make Madura green was started to the end of 1958, there are 216,000 orange trees, and about 50 percent now bear fruit. Allowing that an orange sells for twenty five cents and each tree can bear 700 fruit annually, the income from oranges alone can come to approximately 19 thousand Indonesian rupiahs.

In the program to improve agriculture in Madura, where now increased plantings were accomplished, the purchasing power is enhanced, and it is expected that greening Madura plan will bring an annual income of approximately 120 thousand Indonesian rupiahs. Thus, hunger, which plagued Madura, might disappear. Two things were responsible for this hunger threat. One: Sources of supply were not sufficient to meet the minimum demand. Second: Even if there were enough supplies, there were not enough purchasing power. Records have shown that beginning in 1953 and ending in 1958, nobody was hungry to the extent that they had to eat leaves known as "daun pe-ape" - plants normally grow in sandy soils. Although the improvement has not reached the required point, the overall standard of living has been raised.

To give a better picture of the plan to make Madura green, up to the end of 1958 the following figures are given:

Coconut trees.....	1,174,484
Orange trees.....	215,624
Randu (kapok trees).....	3,451,859
Nangka.....	537,098
Mangga (Mango trees).....	711,686
Banana trees.....	3,710,919
Others.....	3,102,914

The plants mentioned above are found in Madura itself. Nurseries for them are found in the villages. Thus the people can help themselves in the plan to make Madura green to bring prosperity.

Nearly every village has its own nursery which are made possible by mutual efforts under the direction of the Village Chief. The village is responsible to see that the nurseries bring the maximum benefits possible. For this, a number of the villagers are given training by the Department of Agriculture

To encourage greater efforts to improve the nurseries in the villages, it is deemed necessary to have races. This is known as the Village Nursery Race and it is held once a year, the same as other races. The practice has been to give money awards to every winner. The Village Nursery Race is run on four different stages.

The first is among the villagers of one district against another. This race determines the winner of the districts. In the second, the winner of the town is selected. The third race determines the winner of the country and the forth determines the winner of the state. Every winner gets awards.

To enter the race, minimum conditions must be met which apply to both contestant and judge. Before going into the conditions of the race,

it is timely to mention the awareness of the people in the mutual help to to obtain and select the nursery stock.

There are various ways how they are obtained and selected. This of course is left to the chief of the village and district of the various territories.

For coconuts nursery some of the plants are obtained from the inhabitants themselves. When the plants are ready to be transplanted, they are given to those who have land and are willing to plant them.

Others may choose another method. They require all those who wish to plant coconuts to register. When the names of the people showing willingness to plant coconuts have been noted, then the village begins to prepare a coconut nursery. When the plants are ready to be transplanted, they are sold to those who have registered. Those that cannot be sold are planted in the yard of the village chief.

The transplanting from the nurseries will be undertaken by the farmers in the land most suited for the plants. Therefore before establishing nurseries, it would be wise to contact first the farmers to find out what type of plants their land calls for. In this way the establishing of the nurseries and transplanting is made expedient. It is now common to find a district with 10,000 orange trees and 5000 mango trees. Based upon this figure, one can easily imagine the wide variety of nurseries needed to supply the needs of the farmers for young plants if only half of the 890 villages in Madura participate actively in this race project.

We now come to the minimum requirement of the Village Nursery Race.

The land for nurseries must be wide enough for 48 plots, each measuring not less than 10 meters wide and 120 meters long. The distance between one plot and another must be at least one half meter and this part of the land will be used for waterways in the rainy season. Out of the 48 plots, 12 plots must be used to plant coconut and kapok trees. The technique in the care of the nurseries set by the Department of Agriculture must be followed. Out of the remainder of the plots, 24 must be used to plant three types of the monosuko family plants, allowing each type 8 plots. The exact type to be planted of the monosuko plants will be left to the discretion of the villages. In this way they can give priority to their needs. They may plant nangka, mango, orange, lemon and others. The deciding factors are that the plants must either be fruit-bearing, or the trees suitable for construction or fire-wood.

The Village Nurseries will be undertaken collectively and under the direction of the village chiefs. How the nurseries will be taken care of will be left to their own discretion in their attempt to become winners.

In a scheduled month, the local leaders will appraise their own nurseries. They will give considerations to: 1) the width of the land, the number of plots and their location. 2) the stage the plants are in at the time the appraisal was made. 3) the care given the plants, which includes appearances and cleanliness. 4) other plants used to shade the plants. 5) the appearance of the fences. These factors will determine the winners.